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3 August 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

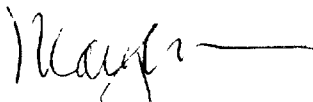
Dear Sir or Madam:

It is my understanding that the Food and Drug Administration was petitioned in April 1998 to ban the forced molting of hens by the United States egg industry. This petition should be granted for the following reasons:

1. Forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems.
2. Banning forced molting would remove a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs.
3. The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices that injure human health.
4. Such "band aid" practices as bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and the regulation of egg refrigeration temperatures do not address the root causes of contamination.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my concern.

Very truly yours,

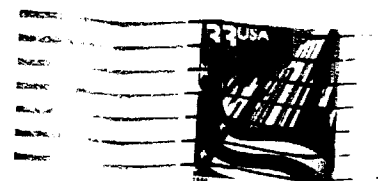


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96P-0418

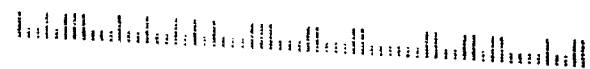
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20852-0001



CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C101*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ *C102*

96P 0418/ *C101*